

Children's Justice Act Committee (CJAC)
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
January 14, 2016
Howard County Library, Miller Branch
9421 Frederick Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Arnold Eby, Chair, Maryland Foster Parent Resource Center
Mark Acosta, The Coordinating Center
Kerry Hannan, Baltimore Child Abuse Center
Ed Kilcullen, Maryland CASA Association
Joan Little, Legal Aid Bureau
Vernice McKee, Department of Human Resources
Shalita O'Neale, Hope Forward, Inc. (phone)
Keith Pion, Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office
Diane Shaffer, Talbot County Department of Social Services
Krista Trahan, Baltimore County Department of Social Services
Lt. Glen Wiedeck, Baltimore County Police Department

Staff:

Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Members were provided with minutes from May and November 2015 prior to the meeting. Lt. Wiedeck made a motion to approve both minutes. Ms. Shaffer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

III. Medical Integration – Child Abuse & Neglect

Mark Acosta provided members with an overview of the Chesapeake Regional Information System (CRISP). The Coordinating Center in Montgomery County receives CRISP alerts whenever one of their clients visits an Emergency Room or is admitted to or discharged from a hospital. The Center is encouraging pediatric medical private practices to sign up for CRISP alerts, as the alerts quickly show if a caregiver is taking a child to multiple Emergency Rooms in a defined time period. For the Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) clients, the Case Manager monitors Emergency Room activity, but for children in the community without case management services, the Primary Care Physician's office really becomes the one consistent factor in care.

More information about CRISP can be found online at: <https://crisphealth.org/>.

Members discussed the importance of information sharing, such as this, when investigating child abuse and neglect cases. Additional outreach is needed to ensure that the medical community is aware of this system.

IV. 2015 Three-Year Assessment Recommendations – 2016 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Priorities

Members discussed aligning the work of the Children’s Justice Act Committee with the Three-Year Assessment survey findings. Members discussed the need for system improvement across disciplines for non-English speaking families, as this was a consistent theme throughout the 3-year assessment.

In terms of the NOFA, members asked that it clearly state that only two members per organization will be approved for training requests. Members also requested that letters of support be mandatory for those agencies proposing to partner with another organization. Members will review the 2015 NOFA in greater detail and provide comments during a conference call in February.

V. Updates

a. Re-cap of 2015 3-Year Assessment and Federal Application

Mrs. Wheeler shared the positive feedback that the Maryland Children’s Justice Act Committee received from the federal program manager regarding the 2015 assessment and grant application. The program manager specifically highlighted the mandatory reporter training, youth court education, and forensic interview training in her comments.

b. 2016 Federal Program Information

Mrs. Wheeler stated that the Program Information has not yet been released by the federal government. The federal program manager has indicated that there will be some changes from past years; however, those changes are unknown until the Program Information is released.

c. Annual Grantee Meeting

The annual Children’s Justice Act Grantee’s meeting will be held in conjunction with the 20th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect on August 31–September 2, 2016 at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, DC.

d. Child Advocacy Center Workgroup

Mrs. Wheeler informed members that a Child Advocacy Center workgroup was recently formed and held their first meeting in early December. The goals of the workgroup are to review the national standards and best practices and work to align Maryland with those standards. The first part of this process is to conduct a needs assessment of each Child Advocacy Center. This is

currently being done by the Maryland Children's Alliance. More details will follow once the needs assessment is completed. The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2016 from 1-3 p.m. at the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

e. State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect

Ms. Remington informed member that the SCCAN Prevention Committee continues their work on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Essentials for Childhood Framework. Maryland will be included in a publication which will highlight the work that has been done through this initiative. Ms. Remington also noted that SCCAN has included recommendations around health care for children in Child Protective Services and foster care in their annual report. One of the recommendations was for a Director of Health Care at the Department of Human Resources.

VI. Adjournment

Lt. Wiedeck made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Shaffer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.